

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method of maintaining an operative pneumoperitoneum in a patient undergoing a surgical procedure comprising the steps of:

introducing a trocar through a portion of an abdominal wall of a patient;

introducing a surgical instrument through a lumen in the trocar;

introducing a pressurized gas from a controlled pressure source into the surgical instrument; and

directing the pressurized gas from the surgical instrument into the patient through a passageway between the surgical instrument and a wall of the lumen in the trocar, the pressurized gas from the surgical instrument forming a gas seal around the surgical instrument within the lumen of the trocar, while simultaneously maintaining an operative pneumoperitoneum in the patient; and

monitoring the pneumoperitoneum of the patient to provide feedback for maintaining the operative pneumoperitoneum.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 9, further including the step of:

sealing the passageway between the surgical instrument and the wall of the lumen in the trocar to block the escape of gas introduced into the patient.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the step of directing pressurized gas from the surgical instrument into the patient through a passageway between the surgical instrument and a wall of the lumen in the trocar involves directing a flow of pressurized gas through at least one port in a wall portion of the surgical instrument.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 9, further including the steps of: introducing a first cannula into an abdominal wall portion of the patient; and introducing at least one operative surgical instrument through the first cannula to permit simultaneous operative function with the trocar.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 12, further including the steps of: introducing a second cannula into the patient; and wherein the step of monitoring the pneumoperitoneum of the patient occurs through the second cannula.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the step of sealing the passageway between the surgical instrument and the wall of the lumen in the trocar includes the step of arranging a removable valve at a proximal end portion of the trocar.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of maintaining an operative pneumoperitoneum in a patient undergoing a surgical procedure comprising the steps of:

introducing a trocar through a portion of an abdominal wall of a patient at a first site;
introducing at least one surgical instrument through a lumen in the trocar;
introducing a pressurized gas from a controlled pressure source into the at least one surgical instrument;

directing the pressurized gas from the at least one surgical instrument into the patient through a gas passageway between the at least one surgical instrument and a wall of the lumen in the trocar; ~~sealing the passageway between the pressurized gas forming a gas seal around the at least one surgical instrument and the wall of~~ within the lumen in the trocar, while simultaneously maintaining the operative pneumoperitoneum;

introducing a cannula through the abdominal wall of the patient at a second site;
monitoring gas pressure within the abdomen of the patient through the cannula; and
controlling gas pressure within the abdomen of the patient based upon feedback received from the cannula so as to maintain the operative pneumoperitoneum with the pressurized gas from the at least one surgical instrument.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the trocar and the cannula are arranged in operative communication with one another to controllably balance pressurized gas introduced into the patient.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the trocar has a plurality of surgical instruments extending therethrough simultaneously.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the cannula has an open bore extending therethrough to permit operative instruments therethrough.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 9, wherein the step of directing the pressurized gas from the surgical instrument into the patient involves directing a flow of pressurized gas into the lumen of the trocar at a location distal to any valve arrangement within the trocar.